

**Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, June 4, 1838,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Confidential

Hermitage, June 4, 1838.

My dear sir, It is some time since I had the pleasure to hear from you. The last Globe brings us the letter of the Secretary of War, with the Presidents Message communicating it to Congress.¹ There never was any thing worse judged of than this, and nothing that is so well calculated to destroy the administration, and give strength to the southern Whiggs.? What, the very day on which the cherokees were to commence their emigration, that the Secretary of War should be inveigled by John Ross and the enemies of the administration into the measure, of prolonging their stay within the states, when the Government is incurring the daily expence of such a large army in the field, is the most astonishing thing that has ever happened, and shews that the secretary of war is half an age behind the times in our Indian affairs.

¹ Message of May 21, 1838 (Richardson, *Messages*, III. 475), transmitting a letter of Secretary Poinsett to John Ross and others, delegates of the Cherokee nation, May 18.

I had a confidential hint, that there were treachery in the subordinates in the Indian Department and I wrote the President confidential[ly] on the subject. the late order with regard to sutlers in the west I fear will have a bad tendency on the popularity of the administration there. Mr. VanBuren will have to look himself to the Indian Dept. with attention. I found it the most arduous part of my duty, and I watched over it with great

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vigilance, and could hardly keep it under proper restraint, and free from abuse and injury to the administration.

Every del[a]y in their removal opens resources to the speculators and swindlers of the Indians. The various memorials, and the sources from which they come, ought to have been a stimulant to the secretary of war to have resisted the approaches of Ross, and added to the fixed determination of the Secretary of War, and the executive to carry into effect the treaty promptly. The friends of the administration here droop their heads and can find no justification for this course.